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 VIETNAM

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What Kind of Message?

APPARENTLY General Wessin, late of the Dominican Republic, just didn't get the message. He declined Uncle Sam's offer of \$50,000 for his house and a vacant lot in Santo Domingo, as much as to say that he intended to go on living there. So what happened? He was evicted by Uncle Sam's agents who, it turned out, weren't real estate agents interested in house and lots, but U.S. State Department and CIA agents who, the general should have known, are more interested in coups and plots.

With anti-Communist General Wessin out of the country, the way now seems clear for Juan Bosch and his various Marxist entourage to set themselves up in power more easily than if their attempted coup earlier this year had not been interrupted by General Wessin and the U.S. Marines. Quite probably Mr. Bosch won't even demand a public apology for that interruption, providing that he gets enough of our tax dollars to support himself and his regime in the manner to which they wish to become accustomed.

As for the good general, we suppose he should consider himself lucky. For failing to heed the message (in that new, subtle code of U.S. "diplomats") that he should leave voluntarily, he might have suffered the same fate as the late President Diem of South Viet Nam.

Which reminds us that Ambassador Lodge, the official, on-the-spot observer for Uncle Sam of President Diem's demise, is now back in Saigon. With him as a "special assistant" is a reputed psychological warfare expert named Lansdale. They have a much-publicized plan which is supposed to "motivate" the Viet Cong enemy soldiers to throw down their arms and join the growing refugee population in South Viet Nam — after which, according to Senator Mansfield, of Montana, some kind of political settlement might be reached, possibly reuniting North and South Viet Nam.

We wonder if there's some kind of message in all this for South Viet Nam's present premier, fervently anti-Communist General Ky.